

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6543

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USCINEUR VAIHINGEN GER

DARPA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ARPA OFFICE TEHRAN

REF: USCINEUR 291050Z APR 74

SUMMARY: WE BELIEVE THAT ARPA FUNCTIONS WHICH ORIGINALLY REQUIRED ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE IN IRAN HAVE CHANGED SUBSTANTITALLY AND REQUEST THAT OFFICE BE CLOSED THIS SUMMER. LIMITED REMIANING ARPA FUNCTIONS HERE CAN, WE BELIEVE, BE PERFORMED BY CONTRACT PERSONNEL BASED IN TEHRAN AND BY ARPA VISITS. REQUEST IS BASED ON OUR INTENTION TO LIMIT SIZE AND NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT MILITARY UNITS IN IRAN TO NUMBER NECESSARY FOR PERFORMANCE OF ESSENTIAL TASKS ONLY. END SUMMARY

1. ARPA'S PROGRAM IN IRAN HAS BEEN ODIFIED SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS LOCAL OFFICE. THERE IS NOW ONLY ONE APPROVED ARPA PROJECT IN IRAN, THE LONG PERIOD SEIMIC ARRAY, WHICH IS IN INSTALLATION PHASE. WE HAVE CARFULLY REVIEWED ARPA FUNCTION AND BELIEVE IT CAN BE PERFORMED EFFECTIVELY BY CONTRACT PERSONNEL ALREADY IN TEHRAN REPRESENTING (1) UNIVERSITY OF TEHRAN , (2) US GEODETIC SURVEY AND (3) TEXAS INSTRUMENTS. AS NECESSARY, ARPA PERSONNEL COULD VISIT IRAN TO ASURE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES. EMBASSY SCIENCE ATTACHE COULD ALSO PROVIDE OCCASIONAL MONITORING OF PROJECT.

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2. ARPA EUROPE DIRECTOR LIEBER HAS INFORMED US OF A SECOND ARPA PROJECT WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH MINISTER OF PTT. WE HAVE TOLD LIEBER THAT THIS PROJECT MUST FIRST BE APPROVED BY SECDEF, STATE AND EMBASSY. WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO APPROVE ANY PROJECT WITH PTT REQUIRING A MAJOR EFFORT UNLESS IT WERE OF HIGH IMPORTANCE TO USG. ALREADY OVERBURDENED PTT WILL HAVE ITS HANDS FULL WITH FORTHCOMING EXPANDED PEACE SCEPTER ROJECT.

3. IN OUR VIEW, ABSENCE OF A SIGNIFICANT FUNCTION IS SUFFICIENT REASON FOR CLOSING ARPA OFFICE. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT UNAVOIDABLE GROWTH IN SIZE OF AMERICAN PRESENCE AND NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT UNITS IN IRAN BE CONTROLLED TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. WHILE REMOVAL OF THREE ARPA PERSONNEL WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON OVERALL PRESENCE, CLOSURE OF ONE OF MISSION'S 25 INDEPENDENT MILITARY UNITS WILL BE HELPFUL.

4. UNLESS DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES CONVINCING REASON NOT APPARENT TO US FOR MAINTENANCE OF ARPA OFFICE, WE REQUEST THAT IT BE CLOSED THIS SUMMER. WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT OUR REQUEST SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS ADVERSE REFLECTION ON COL KINNE, A FINE OFFICER WHO HAS SERVED AS MOST COOPERATIVE MEMBER OF COUNTRY TEAM.

5. IN A RELATED MATTER, REFTEL DESCRIBES MR. LIEBER'S NEW APOINTMENT A R AND D ADVISOR TO DCINCEUR WITH REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE QTE ASSISTANCE AND INPUTS UNQTE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN IRAN. WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE THAT ARPA HAS ANY SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES IN IRAN AND REQUEST THAT ANY INQUIRIES OR INITIATIVES ON THESE SUBJECTS BE ADDRESSED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO THE EMBASSY SCIENCE ATTACHE WITHOUT REGIONAL OFFICE ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY.
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